The Art of Alan Rath: Living Machinery

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Introduction

- Alan Rath has an Engineering Education from MIT.
- He instills lifelike qualities in primitive electronic sculptures.
- Explores human interest and repulsion reactions to machinery with human characteristics.
Types of Art Pieces

- Digital Video Sculptures
- Counters
- Throbbers
- Robots

Digital Video Sculptures

- Recognizable human traits
- Overtly electronic: monochrome CRT display
- Sculptures seem “alive”, yet exaggeratedly robotic.

Counters

- Columns of counting digits
- Invokes curiosity and sense of some imminent event.

Robots

- Peacock:
  - Synchronized wall-display of moving feathers
  - Intriguing motions and movement patterns.

Why do People Feel Alienated by Machines?

- We manufacture robots to resemble humans in looks and traits.
- Contrasting combinations of man and machine invoke a sense of repulsion.

References


